

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the Application. With reference to the listing it is noted that, herewith, claims 2, 5-7, 12-14, 17, and 18 are amended, claims 1, 3, 4, 9-11, 15, and 16 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 19-21 are added. No new matter has been added.

Listing of Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The image-taking apparatus according to claim 1 5,

wherein the restriction operation is a prohibition of the image-taking in the second mode or the distribution of the image taken in the second mode.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The image-taking apparatus according to claim 4,~~ An image-taking apparatus which is operated through a network from a terminal apparatus and which distributes taken images over the network, comprising:

an image-taking optical system;

an image-pickup device which photoelectrically converts an object image formed by the image-taking optical system; and

a controller which performs, by using the image-pickup device, image-taking in a first mode and image-taking in a second mode in which image-taking is carried out with more pixels or at a lower frame rate than in the first mode;

wherein the controller determines whether a condition relating to image-taking matches a predetermined restriction condition, and performs a restriction operation which restricts image-taking in the second mode or distribution of an image taken in the second mode when the restriction condition is met;

wherein a focal length of the image-taking optical system is variable;

wherein the controller determines whether the focal length is equal to or longer than a predetermined focal length, and performs the restriction operation when the focal length is equal to or longer than the predetermined focal length; and

wherein the controller further determines whether an object distance is equal to or shorter than a predetermined object distance, and performs the restriction operation when the focal length is equal to or longer than the predetermined focal length and the object distance is equal to or shorter than the predetermined object distance.

6. (Currently Amended) The image-taking apparatus according to claim [[4]] 5,

wherein, as the restriction operation, the controller allows the image-taking in the second mode and the distribution of the image taken in the second mode after changing the focal length to a focal length which is shorter than the predetermined focal length.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The image-taking apparatus according to claim 1;~~ An image-taking apparatus which is operated through a network from a terminal apparatus and which distributes

taken images over the network, comprising:

an image-taking optical system;

an image-pickup device which photoelectrically converts an object image formed by the image-taking optical system; and

a controller which performs, by using the image-pickup device, image-taking in a first mode and image-taking in a second mode in which image-taking is carried out with more pixels or at a lower frame rate than in the first mode;

wherein the controller determines whether a condition relating to image-taking matches a predetermined restriction condition, and performs a restriction operation which restricts image-taking in the second mode or distribution of an image taken in the second mode when the restriction condition is met; and

wherein the controller has a function of recognizing an object in an image-taking field, identifies whether the recognized object is a specific object, and performs the restriction operation when the object is the specific object.

8. (Original) The image-taking apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein the specific object is a person or a window of a building.

Claims 9-11 (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The image-taking apparatus according to claim 4 5,

wherein, when the distribution of the image taken in the second mode is prohibited as the restriction operation, the controller saves the taken image to a memory from where image can be

read out only by an administrator of the image-taking apparatus.

13. (Currently Amended) The image-taking apparatus according to claim 1 5,

wherein the controller sends warning information to the terminal apparatus when performing the restriction operation.

14. (Currently Amended) The image-taking apparatus according to claim 1 5,

wherein the predetermined object distance and the predetermined focal length the ~~predetermined restriction condition~~ can be changed only by an administrator of the image-taking apparatus.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) An image-taking system[[,]] comprising:

the image-taking apparatus according to claim 1 5; and

an administrative computer with which an administrator of the image-taking apparatus can control the image-taking apparatus through the network.

18. (Currently Amended) An image-taking system[[,]] comprising:

the image-taking apparatus according to claim 1 5; and

a terminal apparatus which operates the image-taking apparatus through the network and

which receives a distribution of taken image.

19. (New) The image-taking apparatus according to claim 7,

wherein the restriction operation is a prohibition of the image-taking in the second mode or the distribution of the image taken in the second mode.

20. (New) An image-taking system comprising:

the image-taking apparatus according to claim 7; and

an administrative computer with which an administrator of the image-taking apparatus can control the image-taking apparatus through the network.

21. (New) An image-taking system comprising:

the image-taking apparatus according to claim 7; and

a terminal apparatus which operates the image-taking apparatus through the network and which receives a distribution of taken image.